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September 21, 2009

CONTACT: Bruce Fernandez  
(202) 225-5147  
Bruce.Fernandez@mail.house.gov

Subcommittee Holds Hearing to Discuss Impact of the United States Parole Commission on Public Safety and Recidivism in the District of Columbia

*Hearing will examine how policies and practices of federal entities affect the reintegration of D.C. ex-offenders and public safety in the nation's capitol.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia will hold a hearing entitled, “The Local Role of the United States Parole Commission: Increasing Public Safety, Reducing Recidivism, and Using Alternatives to Re-incarceration in the District of Columbia.”

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the role of the United States Parole Commission (USPC) with respect to its responsibility over the parole, supervised release and/or revocation of adult felons convicted under the D.C. Criminal Code. Additionally, the hearing is also expected to examine the extent to which the USPC and other related federal agencies, such as the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), are employing evidence-based policies and practices in making decisions that affect public safety, recidivism, and reintegration of ex-offenders in the District of Columbia.

“In light of the unique authority of the United States Parole Commission in this area, we must assess the impact of current and impending USPC policies and practices on D.C. ex-offenders,

as well as public safety in the District of Columbia,” said Chairman Stephen F. Lynch. “Claims that federal agencies may be applying rules and procedures inconsistently and in ways that do not take local interests into account are concerning and therefore should be reviewed and clarified.”

Notably, the District of Columbia is the only jurisdiction in the country whose authority over its local criminal code offenders is determined by the policies and practices of a federal agency, the USPC. Pursuant to the National Capital Revitalization and Self Government-Improvement Act of 1997, responsibility for certain state criminal justice functions, including the housing, parole, and supervised release of D.C. Code felons, was transferred from the District of Columbia to the federal government.

Witnesses’ testimonies, the Chairman’s opening statement can be found on the Subcommittee’s website, [www.federalworkforce.oversight.house.gov](http://www.federalworkforce.oversight.house.gov)

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The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia’s jurisdiction includes federal employee issues, non-appropriation municipal affairs of the District of Columbia, and the Postal Service, including post office namings, holidays, and commemoratives.

### **Documents and Links**

- [Testimony of Mr. Fulwood](#)
- [Testimony of Ms. Hankins](#)
- [Testimony of Mr. Horn](#)
- [Testimony of Mr. Jannetta](#)
- [Testimony of Mr. Jones](#)
- [Testimony of Ms. Poteat](#)